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THREE
DIALOGUES
ON THE
NAVY;

CONTAINING

- I. A Plan of Education for OFFICERS.
- II. The Plan of a standing Force by SEA.
- III. A Scheme of Discipline and Government.

Dedicated to the Right Honourable
EDWARD BOSCAWEN.

*But on the Sea be terrible, untam'd,
Unconquerable.*—— Thomson's Britannia.

L O N D O N:

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TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Edward Boscawen,
Admiral of the Blue, &c.

S I R,

THE Writer of the Three Dialogues on the Navy, two of which were published several Years ago ; thinks himself authorized by the very great Importance of his Subject, and by the distinguished Place which your Character holds in the public Esteem, to court your favourable Attention first ; and afterwards, just so far as his Plans shall appear to be grounded in Reason and Truth, to court your Patronage.

Your high Rank in his Majesty's Fleet, not to mention the great and
A 2 illustrious



Presented by T. D. ...
to the ...
of the ...

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illustrious Proofs already given of Merit and Abilities which soar above your Rank, and claim the chief Rewards of Honour from an obliged and grateful Country ; concurs to warrant his Address.

Above all your perfect Knowledge of our Naval Constitution and Interest, furnishes him with the fairest Pretence for making this ultimate Appeal to you : *Whether such a Reduction of our Marine as has always hitherto followed Peace, ought any longer to be viewed in the false Light of a real Oeconomy.*

Setting aside the strange Violence offered to free Subjects, and the gross Injury done to Trade by the Practice of impressing : On the single Point, whether any Thing but a very considerable standing Force by Sea can answer the great Purpose of National Security ; let the whole Decision rest.

That all Schemes of *Registers, Muster-rolls, Bounties, &c.* would necessarily

DEDICATION. v

cessarily prove ineffectual Resources ; from a long Chain of Reasoning in his second Dialogue, must appear manifest to the most unexperienced Reader. To such as you, Sir, other Reasons, of a more conclusive Nature perhaps, will occur unsuggested.

How far his Plan of Education in the first Dialogue, or his Scheme of Government and Discipline in the last may suit the Genius and Humour of a licentious Age, he knows not: But that he has fairly proved them to be practicable, and in their own Nature productive of the most desirable Effects ; he certainly believes. What indeed but this Persuasion, groundless as it may perhaps seem, and springing from the fond Conceit of an Author ; could have emboldened him to risk and even court the decisive Opinion of such an accomplished Judge ?

Should the Reasons on which he builds his Proposals, appear strong
enough

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enough to merit the sterling Stamp of your Approbation; Your characteristic public Spirit will not suffer him to doubt of your Zeal in patronizing Schemes calculated to render the Nation great and respectable both in Peace and War.

Having thus honestly mentioned the true Motives of his Address, and added nothing, in the Form of Praise, which he did not find fully warranted by the Voice of the Public, as well as essentially required for his own Justification: Without apologizing for the respectful Freedom he takes, since genuine Greatness and genuine Worth are ever most accessible; he hastens to subscribe himself,

S I R,

Your most humble

and most obedient Servant,

John Moncreiff.

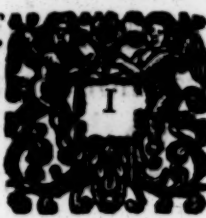


G A L B A.

A

Dialogue *on the* NAVY, &c.

PISO, CAMILLUS, GALBA.

Pis.  Have the Honour and Interest of the Navy much at Heart; for which Reason, *Camillus*, I reckon myself in a particular manner obliged to you for your Friend *Galba*'s Acquaintance. His Reflections on that Subject have, without a Compliment, given me great Pleasure, as well as Information; and I begin to perceive that my former Opinions were in a good measure groundless, or indigested. Like a Person just entered upon a favourite Study, I'm impatient till I make a further Progress: and

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you know 'tis with this View that I have intrusted you both to pass the Evening at my House. We have hitherto talk'd of these Matters by starts only; just as they happen'd to come uppermost in accidental Discourse. *Galba's* Remarks, in a closer Conversation, will, I dare say, shine to more Advantage, and, I hope, stand the Test of the strictest Inquiry.

Cam. You seem to lay great Strefs on *Galba's* Judgment; and I find already that I am only to act an Under-part in this Dialogue. As I may possibly differ from him in some Points, which I shall not incline to give up easily, this previous Partiality of yours alarms me, *Piso.* Should neither of us be convinced, which is the general Fate of all Arguments, in case of a joint Appeal to you, concerning the Validity of our Reasons; I'm afraid you would be too ready to decide it in his favour. I must therefore caution you to beware of Prepossession: for I drop the Word *Partiality*, lest it should sound somewhat harsh to a delicate Ear.

Pis. Silence would be the most polite Answer I could make, lest I should seem to suppose you serious. However, since you give me such a fair Opening, I shall take the Hint, and assure you, that I by no means incline to set myself up as an Arbitrator in your Disputes. If you will give me Leave, after hearing your different Opinions, and
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the Reasons on which you ground them, to tell you fairly what I think, I shall do it merely for the sake of further Information; being extremely desirous to know, as far as a Land-man's Comprehension will reach, the Condition and Conduct of the Navy. This, in a Country like ours, whose principal Bulwark is the Sea, must at all times be deem'd a Qualification fit for a Gentleman: but it is still more remarkably proper at present, when our Fleet is become so much the Subject of general Discourse; and, which I'm sorry to add, of loud Complaints and Ridicule.

Galb. You have touched on one of those Points, *Piso*, where perhaps *Camillus* and I shall differ. Like the rest of his Brethren, I doubt, he will not easily allow Landmen, in any respect, to be proper Judges of their Affairs.

Cam. If we are to form our Opinion of their judicial Capacity, from the daily Dissertations we hear on that Subject; from the ridiculous Censures, and wild Schemes, which are every-where talked of, and often published, without any regard to Decency; your Land-Judges in general will, I'm afraid, make but a sorry Figure, *Galba*.

Galb. The Question is not how idly People talk or write, without proper Materials, and without proper Intelligence, of things too which perhaps they do not understand, merely for want of due Pains and Appli-

cation ; since this will doubtless happen on all Subjects : but, setting aside the mechanical Part of the Business, or, if you will, the Craft of the Sea, I ask you, *Camillus*, Whether the Constitution, Interest, and Defects of the Navy, are not to be judged of by the same Rules of Reason which hold in other Cases ? If so, I shall make no Scruple of appealing to *Piso* boldly for his Opinion : and if he gives it in my favour at any time, you may think what you please ; but I shall look upon myself as Victor in the Dispute.

Pis. Methinks you had better wave this Point, till you come to particular Remarks. It will then soonest appear, how far a Landman may be suffered to judge of your Reasons. What say you, *Camillus* ?

Cam. Nothing can be fairer than the Proposal. Perhaps I may not go quite so far as *Galba* ; nor be willing, intirely, to subject the Sea to the Censure of the Shore : but you wrong me, *Piso*, much, if you suppose, that I am against submitting to the Decisions of good Sense, properly informed. Our Naval Constitution either is, or ought to be, built on the solid Foundation of Sense ; which being once allowed, how shall we decline an honest Tryal ? *Galba*, surely, will do me the Justice to own that, far from professing myself a Foe to Sense in Sea-Affairs or Seamen, he has always heard me talk of it

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as the second essential Qualification of an Officer.

Pis. What you said last, serves to give a seasonable Turn to the Conversation, and introduces a Subject of the greatest Importance to the Public; which therefore deserves our minutest Attention. It is a Maxim too well established to bear any Dispute, that Officers are the principal Strength, and, as it were, the Sinews of a Fleet or Army: consequently not so much the Success as Safety of either, must chiefly depend on a proper Set of these being employed. That Landmen may know how to judge of Sea-Officers, it is above all things necessary, to point out what ought to be their essential Qualifications. If good Sense is only the Second in your Opinion, pray, *Camillus*, what do you look upon as the First?

Cam. Virtue, *Piso*; Probity, public Spirit; a true Command of themselves. He that is a Slave to his own Passions, can never be fit to govern others; and a Person, void of Humanity, is not even worthy to be set over brute Beasts.

Pis. *Galba's* Sentiments will hardly differ from yours here; though I doubt your Opinion, as far as it relates to Virtue, Goodness of Heart, and true Worth, is not of a very general Extent. Honour is the Word on which Officers particularly pique themselves; and it would seem, as if few thought any thing

thing else required of such, than that they should be Men of Honour. What the Phrase precisely means, I am somewhat at a Loss to know; because I never heard an accurate Definition of it: but, according to my Conception of the Thing, 'tis a *Gothic* Mixture of Vice and Virtue, which ties our Hands up from certain Actions that are deemed inconsistent with the Principles and Character of a Gentleman, and leaves us at Liberty to commit others, frequently more heinous in themselves: provided always, that we be ready to give Satisfaction, when the Persons injured or affronted are likewise Men of Honour, and therefore obliged to demand it. In short, I find, that a very vicious Man may be still a Man of Honour; and that a Person of real Worth, by refusing, from a Motive of Conscience, to comply with the criminal Dictates of Honour, may forfeit his Pretensions to that fashionable Epithet, which oftentimes cannot be preserved without shedding innocent Blood.

To return from my Digression, into which your unexpected Doctrine of Virtue surprised me; Seamanship, I presume, is the next in your Catalogue of essential Qualifications.

Cam. The Word Seamanship, *Piso*, does not sufficiently comprehend the whole Compass of maritime Knowledge, which every commissioned Officer (for of such I would be supposed to speak) ought necessarily to possess.

possess. The Rules and Discipline of the Navy, the Art of Obedience, as well as the Art of Command, the Science and Stratagems of War; in short, whatever relates to his Function, or can in any Shape contribute towards his better Discharge of it; should be the constant and serious Subjects of his Meditation and Study.

Galb. After what *Camillus* has said concerning the proper and essential Qualifications of an Officer, to which certainly there cannot be the least Objection; is it not Matter of Astonishment, *Piso*, that Commissions should be procured on such easy Terms; and that mere Seamanship should be the single Point inquired into?

Cam. Let us leave no Room for Cavils. You know that certain Certificates are required of a young Man's Behaviour on board the different Ships of War, where he has served as a Midshipman, or Master's Mate. These, 'tis true, considering the Style in which they run, cannot well be refused to such as have just obeyed Orders, and behaved with a tolerable Share of Discretion and Sobriety: and that this may happen where the first and second Qualifications are scarcely possess'd at all, and the third not in an eminent Degree, is too plain to be disputed.

Pis. It would not be proper to forget that there is something else required, more essential perhaps than any Qualification you have
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yet named, *Camillus*; and oftentimes not less difficult to be procured, especially where Modesty stands in the way; the surest Sign, and the general Companion of Merit: I mean Interest, and powerful Recommendations.

Cam. In all Countries, particularly such as are free, where native Privileges and a Share in the Legislature add Weight to Birth and Property, Recommendations and Interest, *Piso*, must necessarily be considered; and to think of excluding these, so as to make Merit the sole Source and Standard of Preferments, however right in itself, would, I fear, be a vain and an impracticable Scheme. The Remedy seems to be plainly pointed out by common Sense. Was but a proper Method fallen upon to train up the Youth designed for Sea-Officers, they might then be a Credit to their Friends, and an Ornament to the Service; instead of being, as it often happens, preferred without Merit, to the great Prejudice of the Public, and to the Dishonour of their Patrons.

Pis. Pray tell me, *Camillus*, what Pains, what Methods, are now taken to form the Minds and Morals of the Youth, and to furnish them with a proper Stock of useful and gentlemanly Knowledge? Surely this, if any thing, has long deserved our utmost Care, ever since it was acknowledged that on the Strength and proper Conduct of the Navy,
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the Power, Trade, and Riches of the Nation almost solely depend.

Cam. I have been so great a Sufferer, *Piso*, by the present Neglect, rather than Method of Education, that I never reflect upon it without the greatest Grief. *Galba*, to whose Friendship, Advice, and Assistance, I owe what I have since done towards retrieving my Loss of Time, will answer the Question you propose; and can, perhaps better than any Man I know, prescribe the Remedy required. To him therefore, with your Leave, I most readily transfer the Task.

Galb. The Compliment *Camillus* has pass'd on me far exceeds the trifling Merit of my Services. He had such an eager Thirst after Knowledge, and so great a Desire to be qualified for his Business, according to his own rigid Rules, that but a small Assistance was wanted. If some Hints of mine were useful towards fixing the Plan and Method of his Application, such a cheap Favour scarcely deserves Thanks.

I would not seem to cast Reflections on the Gentlemen of the Navy. Several there are, who, prompted by the same Spirit as *Camillus*, have, with unwearied Pains and Assiduity, set themselves to repair the Defects of their Education. Some, without this Help, by the mere Force of Nature, or Benefit of good Company, have form'd their Principles in such a Manner, and laid down

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such Rules for their Conduct, that they make a laudable Figure in the Service, and justly bear the Character of humane, discreet, and brave Officers.

Had such been blest with a more liberal Education, what might we not have expected from them? They themselves feel the Want of it on a thousand mortifying Occasions; and the better their Understanding, the more exquisite is their Regret. Must it not gall a Man of Spirit, *Piso*, when others of an inferior Rank, and sometimes of a much inferior Capacity, shine in Conversation upon Subjects which every Gentleman is supposed to be tolerably well acquainted with; but on which he himself is forced to be remarkably silent?

Pis. I have observed on such Occasions, in Men of a distinguished Rank ashore, and of very good natural Endowments, a Silence, *Galba*, which has both surprised and hurt me: and if, from the Pain I felt for them, I may venture to guess at their own inward Sense of Shame, I believe it was such as nothing but the Horror of Guilt could surpass. What I have now said (if you will pardon a short Digression) may, perhaps better than any other Reason, account for the Shyness of the Rich and Great, in admitting Men, eminent for their Parts and Knowledge, to converse with them on a free familiar Footing. Far from its being owing to their Want
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of Esteem for Knowledge; it proceeds rather from their being so thoroughly convinced of its high Worth, that they cannot bear the Thoughts of exposing their most inexcusable Ignorance. Can we wonder, after this, that the select Knot of their Companions, the Persons with whom they chuse to live at Ease, should be Men of a less dreadful Understanding, to whom, without the Risk of being detected, they may wear the Face of Wisdom, and prate with Dignity? For my Part, so little am I surpris'd at their Choice of Friends, that I have always thought the weakest of them discovered an exquisite Judgment in this respect, by suiting their own Class of Abilities so exactly.

Gal. This is rank Satire, *Pisò*; the Truth of which, as I converse little with the Great, or their Companions, I cannot attest from my own Experience: but I'm very willing to take it for granted, as it serves the Purpose of my present Remarks.

There is another obvious Inconveniency which attends the Want of Education in those Sea-Officers whom I described last, and allowed to be Men of Worth and Spirit. It cannot be expected they should write correctly, nor with that Propriety of Style which becomes a Gentleman. As they are frequently called upon for long Letters, and under a Necessity to correspond with Persons in high Stations; this must necessarily put

them to a great Difficulty, and oblige them to depend too much on their Clerks, who are not always the best Judges of what is proper. I might add, that a Person who cannot dispatch a pertinent Letter upon Occasion, without the Hand or Help of another, must have a cheap Opinion of himself, which is perhaps, in Reality, the greatest of all Mortifications.

Cam. You deal, I'm afraid, too tenderly with the Sores of the Navy, *Galba*. That under our present Consideration, like a Gangrene, has corrupted the whole Mass of Blood; and, unless an effectual Remedy be speedily thought of, and applied, will prove fatal to the Nation and the Navy together. It is by no means sufficient, that a small Number of Officers should start up, with accidental, and, as we manage Matters, with unrequir'd Qualifications; for a proper Portion of Merit, if not the Cause, ought at least to be look'd upon as an indispensable Condition of Preferment. If those you described last, are liable to great Objections in point of Capacity, what shall we say of others, who, with as small a Share of Knowledge, have neither the Force of Nature, nor the Benefit of good Company, to plead in their Behalf? And are there not many such, who, so soon as they can procure the Rank of Post-Captains, no matter by what Means, nor by whose Recommendation, are afterwards, according

according to their Seniority, intitled, by the Custom of the Navy, to the highest Dignities, and to the most important Commands?

Galb. I acknowledge the Justice of your Observation, *Camillus*; and shall now answer the Question which *Piso* proposed. The few Remarks I made, by way of Preamble, were design'd purely to prevent his conceiving too contemptible an Opinion of our Sea-Officers, when he shall find what little Care is bestowed on their Education.

By a mistaken Notion which prevails, no sooner is a Youth design'd for the Sea, but all manner of genteel Accomplishments come to be look'd upon as less necessary; and his idle Disposition is apparently wink'd at. Perhaps this is the chief Reason, why such a Number of them conceive a violent Inclination for that boistrous Element, which looks like an unnatural Propensity. They fancy to themselves, that a Sea-life requires no Labour of Thought; and, sick of Books and Application, they want to be released on any Terms.

Be this as it will, they certainly bring a very small Foundation of Knowledge along with them in general. The Sum of their Learning afterwards, consists in the Theory of Navigation, and just so much Mathematics, as is necessary for that Purpose. It cannot be well expected, that the Schoolmaster
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should be qualified to teach them any thing else ; since his Encouragement is too small, and his Footing too low, for any Man of a tolerable Education.

Thus, without a proper Foundation of their own, without a Tutor to put them in the way, with many bad Examples before their Eyes, and but few good ones ; I need not tell you, *Pisô*, what dreadful Effects this Situation will produce, both with regard to their Understanding and Morals.

Cam. Can we with Reason expect, that such a School as this, should breed a Set of Officers fit to be Guardians of the Nation's Honour, and to realize our boasted Dominion of the Sea ? If single Ships of War often, and sometimes whole Squadrons, are ill-conducted, to our particular Shame, and to the great Detriment of the common Cause, is there any room to doubt whence it proceeds ? For my Share, so far am I from being surpris'd at hearing any thing of this kind, that, sometimes when the Reverse happens, I congratulate the Genius of the Nation ; which, without Pains, without Culture, will, by Starts, remarkably break forth, and triumph over the Spirit of our Enemies ; as if thereby Heaven meant to convince us, what a glorious and steady Figure we have it in our Power to make, if we will only follow the plain Dictates of Reason, and not be wanting to ourselves.

Pis.

Pif. It remains to be consider'd, by what Means this strange and original Defect of the Navy might be remedied, and a Set of Officers form'd, equal to that important Trust which the Nation reposes in their Hands.

Galb. from some Hints I have heard you drop in former Conversations; I am well assured, you have bestowed a good deal of Reflection on the Subject. Were a proper and practicable Plan propos'd, I think it would bid fair for meeting with a favourable Reception from the present Board of Admiralty; particularly from the noble Duke, who presides there. As his single Motive for accepting of that Place, and condescending to share the Commission of Lord High Admiral, must have been a generous Desire to serve the Public, in a Station of the greatest Consequence; surely, therefore, to promote and patronize a Plan, which, if well executed, might remedy the principal Defect of our naval Power, and strengthen the Bulwark of the Nation, would contribute no less to his Satisfaction than Glory.

Galb. You prescribe a difficult Task, *Pisô*; for which I am not sufficiently prepared. I have, 'tis true, frequently reflected on the great Importance of a proper Education for Sea-Officers; and I'm pretty clear, in general, as to the Sort of Education required. But I never digested my Sentiments into the Form of a regular Plan, as not imagining it would
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take Effect; for I did not chuse to flatter myself with the whimsical Dreams of a Projector: I shall, nevertheless, communicate my Notions to you, such as they are, without Scruple; and, to say the Truth, I shall be glad to hear them myself. Setting aside some random Hints which have been flung out at times, in the Course of superficial Conversation, they have hitherto remained a Secret within my own Breast; and I am now first called upon for a serious and full Account of them. When they come once fairly to see the Light, and to be cloathed in honest *English*, I shall myself be the better able to judge, how far they are well-grounded and practicable. The Censure, Assistance, and Advice, of two such Friends, will mend them perhaps: and thus, *Camillus*, if *Piso* pleases, we may jointly contribute towards the Birth of a Plan.

Pis. This Preamble of yours raises one's Curiosity greatly, *Galba*. Who would not wish to be present at the Birth of original Conceptions? Pray begin.

Galb. A Royal Seminary should, I think, be forthwith instituted, under the Direction of an Intendant, and proper Masters; with such Endowments and Provision as the Scheme to be proposed, and the Nature of the Service, shall require.

The Number of the Youth to be there educated must be fixed in Proportion to the
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tivated, a delicate Sense of Character will prove a stronger Check on the Morals of Men than the Dread of any Punishment besides. If *Honour*, evidently built on false Notions of Shame, can produce such amazing Effects; what will not a much higher Principle of the Sort do, grounded in Nature and Truth?

That in a few Ships, where excellent *Captains* have partly had an Opportunity to chuse, and partly Time to model their Seamen, something very like the present Plan is already practised, I am well informed. Disgraceful Punishments are seldom inflicted there; and for that very Reason the seldomer wanted. In short, where a perfect Decorum is once established among the principal Officers, it descends necessarily; producing, as it spreads, the true Spirit of Discipline and Obedience; together with a general Emulation in Point of Character, which reclaims the vicious fast and dignifies the low.

Because *Land-Discipline* is more the Subject of People's Observation; lest the terrible Severities exercised there should give room to think that nothing else could answer the Purpose; we may just remark, that in certain *Regiments* very different Maxims are pursued with Success. One particularly might be mentioned where no Man above the Rank of a Drummer is punished disgracefully twice; being, after the first Time,

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forthwith cashiered, as unfit to remain in so respectable a Corps. Chiefly by this Means their Regimental Character has been long inviolably preserved, and Recruits, of a proper Sort, are easily found, notwithstanding the very great Discouragement of listing for Life.

Whether the whole *Army* might not be modelled in this Fashion, and every *Regiment* by Degrees acquire a Fund of Character which all Individuals should think themselves under a strict Obligation to support; it is no Part of my present Task to consider: But I cannot help quoting here, because it will suggest an useful Hint, a remarkable Custom which prevails in the *Regiment* just mentioned. For slight Faults and Indecencies, a Tribunal of their own is erected in every Troop, and an absolute Judge chosen, for the most Part by Seniority, the Rule of Nature. On each Delinquent, after a short but fair Trial, a jocular and painful Punishment is forthwith inflicted, by the smart and heavy Hands of his Companions; at the Discretion of the Judge. This ludicrous Correction, to which no Disgrace is annexed, without hurting their Spirit or Character, obliges them to keep a perpetual Guard on their Actions and Words; and thus, by curbing the first Instances of Misbehaviour, prevents the dangerous Growth of Habit. There is a Custom at Sea which, as it partly resem-

resembles this now, with seasonable Improvements and under a proper Direction, might produce the same laudable Effects.

Galb. You would not, I suppose, extend that vulgar Form of Discipline to *commissioned Officers*; whose public Faults, however, having a pernicious Tendency to corrupt, demand an effectual Remedy. I shall mention an Experiment which I myself saw made, on purpose to prove with what Ease the reproachful Habit of Swearing might be left off. Among a large Set of Officers, with whom I messed at the Time, remarkable in other Respects for their Temperance, Good-breeding and Decency, this single Vice of Conversation was too predominant; as they very freely confessed upon Occasion, and took great Shame to themselves. A small Mulct for each Offence was proposed and agreed to. No sooner was the trifling Check in Force but the gross Indecency vanished; and it was particularly taken Notice of that, during the Course of the Experiment, the fewest Penalties were incurred by those that used to swear most. In the second Article of War, already quoted by yourself, I recollect that Fines are mentioned among other Penalties. Perhaps this Hint may not prove unseasonable.

Pis. Fines and other private Checks among Officers themselves might, no Doubt, greatly facilitate their Change of Character in

Points of Decency ; but I lay the chief Stress on a more solid Foundation ; an established Rule that a Behaviour suitable to their Rank shall, under the strict Article of Duty, be required ; and that a wilful Course of Disobedience, which evidently tends to the Corruption of good Manners ; shall, when due Warning and other Means of Rebuke fail, in Despight of Interest and Family, cancel the Commission at last. Not many perhaps would need this extreme Terror of Discipline, as a Check : But for God's Sake let it not be dispensed with, out of mere Complaisance to such. Shall the great and general Interest of the Navy be sacrificed to the licentious Humour and giddy Frolics of a few ?

To conclude my Remarks on the Subject ; should a Plan of this Nature, grounded on the clearest Dictates of Reason and good Policy, fail ; it will not be the Fault of Naval Officers and Seamen. The Blame must light elsewhere, and proceed wholly from what I no longer apprehend ; gross Want of public Spirit, a profligate Inattention to Matters of the first Moment, unqualified with the favourable Mixture of a Jobb.

Galb. According to your Plan I perceive that *Chaplains* will have an active Station in Ships of War ; more active, I fear, than their general Inclination would lead them to chuse.

chuse. Several of the Number, if the World does not foully belie them, disgrace their Profession by their Morals ; and thus, while their Behaviour impudently burlesques their Doctrine, are the chief Encouragers of Vice. By what Means therefore, when improper Persons shall, no Matter how, creep into that important Station, must their Diligence and Decency be secured ?

Pis. Are they not Subject to the same Rules of Discipline with others ? So long as they behave well, they may rest assured of being treated with all due Regard : but it would ill become them to be the first that should plead an Exemption from the plain Articles of Duty ; from a Task of too great Consequence to be neglected. Considering the dangerous Influence of a bad Example set by the Teachers of Virtue themselves ; their Characters and Conduct should at all Times be liable to the strictest Examination, and every gross Fault meet with a severe and sudden Check. With such as shall appear hardened against Rebuke and Shame the sole Course left to be taken is a fair Tryal, according to the Rules of War, and an ignominious Dismission from *his Majesty's* Service. Let them return to their *Patrons* ashore, and enjoy their scandalous Protection without the Verge of Discipline and Decency.

Galb.

Galb. Have you not heard that *Chaplains* are often indulged with Leave of Absence from their Post ; not for short Cruizes only, but now and then for a long Voyage ? Some of them, I have been told, are possessed of small Livings ashore, to which this temporary Sinecure makes a very comfortable Addition. While Prayers and Preaching upon Sundays, nor that unless exceedingly convenient, shall be considered as their sole Duty, their Absence may seem more excusable ; but should a Plan like your's find them constant Employment, of high Consequence too ; not even that particular Sort of Interest which protects many gross Abuses here, could for Shame authorize their Neglect.

Pis. I recommend no Duty to them which their own Conscience as well as their Profession do not clearly prescribe. Are they not the Teachers of Virtue ? If not ; let themselves answer the Question, what are they ? *Sermonizing* indeed has long been their most established if not their sole Method of Instruction. Not to disparage this, they must needs know that there are other Means less public and more effectual, especially with the young. *Clergymen* ashore, from certain Peculiarities in their Situation, may possibly find some plausible Pretext for omitting these ; but, where Discipline interposes her Aid and Influence, every Difficulty,

Difficulty, real or imagined, disappears at once.

Even if we set aside that essential Part of of their Business, their daily Task ; and bring all back to the *Sabbath* discharge of their Function ; their Presence on that Account must be looked upon as indispensable. Now that Infidelity reigns, or seems to reign, among the rich and great ; while the Reality more and more ceases in high Life, the mere outward Form of Religion ought to be strictly kept up elsewhere ; as a political Check at least on the Consciences and Conduct of ordinary Men. Without it neither Discipline nor Decency can flourish in Fleets and Armies.

Other Nations seem more attentive to this necessary Maxim than we ; but its undeniable Truth is no where, upon Occasion, more freely confessed. Very lately, while *Hanoverians* and *Hessians*, to supply the want of a regular *Militia*, defended us against the Terror and Threats of France ; unpopular as their Presence and Protection were, who that saw, who that heard of their solemn and daily Performance of divine Worship ; did not, with immediate and loud applause, acknowledge their Pre-eminence above ourselves in that capital Point ?

To prove how strictly this Maxim prevails among the *Romans* of the present Age, the *Prussians* ; I shall quote a remarkable
Instance

Instance of Devotion where the renowned *Sovereign* himself acted a most conspicuous Part. Just before the Second amazing Blow that humbled the Pride of *Austria*; while the two Armies were advancing to the dreadful Shock, a general Intimation was made by the *King's* exprefs Order that, if any Man's Heart failed him, he was welcome to retire. Easy was it to foresee that no *Prussian* would embrace an offer calculated merely to whet his Courage and kindle his Impatience for Battle; but I believe the *Monarch* himself was surprized at the sudden and singular Effect which it produced. On hearing the Propofal, some gallant Veterans immediately begun a devout Hymn on Providence, fung frequently by the *Lutherans* in their Churches, and for that Reason familiar to their Camps. The great Example took, and the noble Enthusiasm, with a rapid Progreſs, running along the Ranks, in a few Moments became general. As ſoon as it reached the *King*, he diſmounted from his Horſe, and falling upon his Knees, with his Head bare, and with his Eyes and Hands lifted towards Heaven, joined in the martial Chorus.

Not long afterwards, when *Te Deum* was fung at *Breſlaw* for the miraculous Succeſs of his Arms, he was again ſeen in that humble and devout Attitude, aſcribing to Providence the Praise of all, and thus countenancing

ing by his Royal Example the pious Adoration of his Subjects. Blush here, ye Little ones, ye profane and inconsiderate Laughers, who labour to turn the wise and awful Forms of Religion into Ridicule : Blush at the Reproof given by so great a Prince ; the Scourge of *Austria*, the Terror of *France*, the glorious *Hannibal* of the present Age ; at whose Appearance the celebrated Warriors of old, the boasted Heroes of *Greece* and *Rome*, dwindle in their Lustre, and, to borrow *Milton's* Phrase, hide their diminished Heads.

Different Inferences might, I know, be drawn from certain Expressions, favouring perhaps a little of Libertinism, which have been supposed to drop from his Pen : But my first Remark is, that, in the Freedom of philosophizing and a bold Search after Truth, a large Allowance ought to be made for the Sport of Genius as well as for youthful Inadvertencies. I next observe, that the profane and sprightly Discourse of Favourites, entertained and honoured for their high Parts and Vogue, will necessarily leave a Soil behind which nothing but riper Age and Reflection can thoroughly dissipate. Thus an original Understanding, like the *King of Prussia's*, may be slightly touched for a Time, but can never be long nor deeply tainted by the shallow Froth of Wit. . May we not add justly that his late and present Situation,

so miraculously changed, cannot, in such a Mind as his, have failed to produce a suitable Chain of Thought? High Feats indeed, wonderful Exploits might be well expected from his all-accomplished Genius for War: But so powerful a Combination of Enemies exerting, as they did, their whole Vigour at one Time, without the remarkable Interposition of *Providence* in his Behalf, no mortal Arm of such unequal Force could have resisted: A Truth which all but *Ideots* or *Infidels* must immediately perceive and own. Let his former Opinions therefore in sacred Points have been just what the Laughers and the Men of Wit please; we cannot reasonably doubt the Sincerity of his Profession now. At least (for to defend the *King of Prussia's* real Character is not my Business) the Point I propose must appear gained, while I prove that so wise and great a Prince, by the Sanction of his Royal Example, countenances that religious Decorum which I contend for, as the best and surest Basis of Discipline.

Galb. One Point remains to be more clearly discussed. Your Plan, as you yourself observed at first, depends a good deal on the previous Execution of another. 'Till such Time as Justice is compleatly done to the Seamen of the Navy, 'till they come to be fairly considered and treated as free Subjects in a Country which they defend; no Scheme
of

of this Sort can be pursued with a reasonable Prospect of Success. Except therefore a Resolution shall be taken at last to render the Practice of impressing unnecessary for the Time to come, by keeping always a sufficient Number of Volunteers in Pay; you will, I presume, entertain but small Hopes of a Reformation in Point of Government and Manners.

Pis. Much, as I hinted before, is sometimes done by particular *Captains* towards establishing a beautiful Decorum in their respective Ships. Thence it appears plainly, that a proper Exertion of Naval Authority might even now produce a laudable Change in the Behaviour of all Ranks, and give a seasonable Check to the bold Career of Vice. Especially considering the fresh Encouragement added, and the valuable Privileges lately secured to Seamen; there is Room for a prosperous Attempt, which ought not to be delayed. Nothing afterwards would be wanted to compleat the broad Foundation of my Scheme, but to fix the lowest Complement of the Navy for Peace.

I dwell upon the Number *Thirty Thousand*, for the Reasons assigned by *Camillus*: And why should we not expect this? Two Thirds of them disposed of according to his Plan, even if we calculate the yearly Expence at 20*l.* per Man, Officers included; would not cost the Nation above 400000*l.*

As the sole Difference between a very weak and a very powerful Fleet hinged there; was that a Sum to be saved, *Galba*? While our Treasure flowed in lavish Subsidies to *Princes* on the *Continent*, was our own Element, our boasted Dominion of the Sea to be left Defenceless, for the Sake of Oeconomy? Shall our Situation as an Island, shall dear-bought Experience never teach us in what our principal Safety consists? If any Thing but a formidable Navy can secure us not only from continual and dangerous Alarms in Times of Peace, but likewise from the frequent and calamitous Returns of War; let the paltry Sum be saved, in order that it may contribute to serve a Purpose long deemed more essential.

Our Oeconomy, whatever the Motive was, (for I would avoid all Party Reflections) had like to have cost the Nation dear. As soon as the last Peace came, the finest Fleet which *England* ever saw, being, according to Custom, in a Manner annihilated at once; our hostile Neighbour pursued a very different Maxim. *Europe*, in a short Time, resounded with the Naval Preparations of *France*: For she did not so much as affect to conceal her bold Designs. Squadron after Squadron paraded on the Sea for Exercise and Sport; without almost the Pretence of Business. Some fundamental Articles of the Treaty concluded between us were contemptuously
violated

violated from the Beginning. Insult, as *Camillus* foretold, succeeded Insult; 'till at last an unfinished Fort, with *his Majesty's* Colours flying, was audaciously stormed, and an *English* Garrison, in the Bosom of Peace, made Prisoners of War.

All was too little to rouse us from our lethargic Dream. Indolence and Luxury, gay Diversions and a sweet Dissipation of Thought, had lulled us to Rest. The *Pilots* and the *Patriots* of the Commonwealth slept together; and then might have been satirically said what, in the Bacchanal Hymns of *Vaux-hall*, was popularly sung:—*This is Pleasure's golden Reign.*

At length, however, a dreadful Armament designed, as we supposed or knew, to strike a Blow somewhere in *America*, broke in upon our pacific Slumbers. The Watchmen of the Public waked; but would perhaps have waked too late, had *France* known the critical Advantage of her own Situation, and our extreme Inability to repel a sudden Attack at home. Then, if ever, was the dangerous Opportunity given which *Camillus* had described before, and which he vainly wished to prevent. The sole Question is, Whether *France* could, or could not, when the sudden Alarm begun, have sent twelve, ten, or even eight capital Ships of War into the Channel? How far these might have disturbed the Fluster of our Preparations at
Spithead,

Spithead, or even have insulted us in our weakly secured Harbours; I shall not now pretend to say: But I should be glad to know whether our utmost Exertion could have hindered their riding triumphant in the *Downs* for some Time. This, I apprehend, would have been neither more nor less than a *Westminster Bridge* from *Calais* to *Dover*. Not a single Transport was required; for I guess what Objections mere Landmen will ignorantly start or allow. The Ships of War themselves, with a sufficient Number of small Vessels and Boats of every Kind to waft the Troops on board and ashore, might have done the Business in a few Trips. Allowing for the common Chance of Weather, a single Week might perhaps have landed on our defenceless Coast a numerous Army.

That the Risk would have been extremely great, no Man in his Senses will dispute; and that from a general Panic, occasioned by the Risk, the *publick Funds* might have received a fatal Shock, is certain. If, which it was natural to suppose and expect, the *French* had coloured their Expedition with the plausible Pretence of restoring the *Stuart Family*; who could have answered at the Time for their not being immediately joined by Thousands, ready to fight under their Banner?

Thanks

Thanks to Providence, this is now no more than a gloomy Recollection of what possibly might have been the Case. *France* luckily let slip the fair Opportunity given; and, idly bent on a premature Scheme of Conquest in *North-America*, delayed her Threats of an *Invasion* here, 'till our Situation rendered them ridiculous.—

Galb. In no former Time (let fair Justice be done to the *Ministers* whose Province it then was) had a Fleet of equal Strength been fitted out and manned with such amazing Diligence and Expedition. Notwithstanding the wonderful Start which *France* had been suffered to steal; to their Praise be the Truth acknowledged, that a superior Squadron sailed from *England* first. Such too was the Vigilance and Spirit of the *Commander in chief*, that nothing but the Protection of a foggy Climate rescued our insolent Enemy from a decisive Rebuke.

Of course the principal Method of manning many Ships of War in so short a Time was extreme Violence. The whole Art of *impressing*, even so far as now and then to deceive and surprize Hundreds by the Fraud of *Protections*, became for once not only necessary but just: Our capital Interest, if not our All, was in Jeopardy.

Pis. I blame that impolitic *Oeconomy* which occasioned the dreadful Alarm and Risk, not the Means used for our Preservation;

harsh as they certainly were, and tending, as they did, to produce a deplorable Havoc among Seamen. According to the Principles laid down and unanswerably proved by *Camillus* ; what else could happen to such a Fleet as Mr. *Boscawen*'s, in the long run, but the very Thing which happened ; a grievous Mortality ? What else could ensue from our necessary Continuance of the same Conduct afterwards but the Loss of innumerable Lives, for Want of those Refreshments, and especially those periodical Vicissitudes of *Land Air* which all that go to Sea crave, as indispensibly needful ?

Where a Plan is perfectly right, every Thing conspires to prove it so. Not *War* alone but *Peace* also, not alone the *public Safety*, but likewise beyond Dispute *public Oeconomy*, not only *common Justice* with regard to the Privileges and Properties of Men, but even *common Humanity* with regard to their Lives ; call aloud for a perpetual *standing Force* by Sea.

Can we doubt after this, *Galba*, whether or not the Plan of *Camillus*, or at least one resembling it nearly, will take Place as soon as the War ends ? For all former Neglects in so capital a Point, let *Inattention*, let a softer Word, if to be found, plead a final Excuse : But for a Repetition of the same Neglect, after the Risk lately run, nothing besides an amazing Want of Sense, or an incredible

incredible Share of Wickedness could account.

Far be it from me to doubt the public Spirit of the *present Administration*, their disinterested Views, their great Abilities. Have they not, as you yourself observed, already given solid Proofs of their zealous Attention to the Good of the Navy? To their impartial Consideration I therefore freely submit; and, as far as their Judgment approves, to their high Protection and Countenance boldly recommend, in the sacred Name and Behalf of my Country, the Naval Schemes proposed under the Titles GALBA, CAMILLUS, PISO.

F I N I S.

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inverted image of Wilkes's coat of arms.

But he is from me to desire the public spirit of the people to be directed to their distinguished names, and to give them the place they merit, as you would observe, already given to the heads of their nation. Attention to the God of the Navy. To their importance in the history of the country, by which they are their judgment approved. The Protection and Conservation of the country, in the face of the world, of my country, the Navy, and the people, and the Fishery.



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